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LC 0168 PUS (04921)

In the Specification:RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Kindly replace paragraph 16 and the abstract with the following:

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[0016] The present invention accomplishes this through the use of a unique clamping assembly 34. The clamping assembly 34 is comprised of a clamp element 36 and soft durometer backer 38. The soft durometer backer 38 may be formed of any compressible [[sift]] soft durometer material such as silicone, butyl rubber, or closed cell foam. The clamp element 36 is attached to the internal face plate surface 16 and the soft durometer backer 38 is positioned between the clamp element 36 and the flat flex circuit assembly 24 such that the contact less sensors 26 are pressed firmly onto the curved internal window surface 28 without the need for adhesive. The clamp element 36 may be comprised of a separate clamp plate backer 40 to be used in combination with a main back grid support 42. In an alternate embodiment, the main back grid support 42 may be used alone as the clamp element 36. The soft durometer backer 38 may be attached to the clamp element 36 in a variety of fashions. These include, but are not limited to, the use of an adhesive layer 44, two shot mold mechanical attachment, or molecular bonding.

ABSTRACT

[0020] An automotive center stack panel assembly is provided comprising an instrument panel face plate having an outer face plate surface and an internal face plate surface. A display window region is formed into the instrument panel face plate and has a curved internal window surface. A flat flex circuit assembly is in direct contact with the curved internal window surface. The flat flex circuit assembly includes a plurality of field effect sensors. A clamp plate backer is mounted to the internal face plate surface. A soft durometer backer is positioned between the clamp plate backer and the flat flex circuit assembly. [[the]]The clamp plate backer compresses the soft durometer backer such that the soft durometer backer presses the field effect sensors into direct contact with the curved internal window surface without adhesives.